

XI.—On a remarkable new Hare from Cape Colony.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

IN a further consignment of mammals from Deelfontein, Cape Colony, collected by Mr. C. H. B. Grant, and presented to the National Museum by Col. A. T. Sloggett, occur two specimens of a hare of an entirely different type to anything hitherto known, either from South Africa or elsewhere. At first sight appearing allied to the Cape Red-tailed Rabbit (*Oryctolagus crassicaudatus*), it is really a true *Lepus*, as is shown by the structure of its skull and molars.

It may be called

*Lepus monticularis**, sp. n.

Size about as in *O. crassicaudatus*. Fur of medium length, soft and fine, but not woolly. General colour above, of head and back, clear finely grizzled "drab-grey" without rufous suffusion. Individually the long hairs are black with a sub-terminal ring of pale drabby white, while the underfur is pale slaty grey at base and dull buffy terminally. Sides dark drab, taking on a tinge of rufous below. Head like back, a prominent whitish ring round each eye. Ears of medium length, their backs greyish brown with a very fine narrow edging of black terminally; inner surface more yellowish. Nape-patch deep rich rufous, strongly contrasted with the general colour. Under surface very strikingly coloured—the chin yellowish white with the bases of the hairs slaty, sharply separated from the grey of the cheeks by an indistinct blackish line; throat grizzled drab; sternal region and inner side of forearms bright pinkish buff; lower belly whitish; anal region and inner side of legs darker pinkish buff: there are, therefore, in succession five different colours from mouth to anus. Front and outer surfaces of arms and legs drabby brown with a slight vinaceous tone; long hairs of palms yellowish, soles smoky grey, the hairs on the digits dull yellow. Tail, as in *O. crassicaudatus*, thick, round, uniform in colour above and below, therefore strikingly different from the black and white tails of *L. capensis* and *saxatilis*; its colour pale vinaceous brown with the extreme tip black.

Skull in general form most like that of *L. capensis*; rather smaller, with smaller nasals and rather greater intertemporal

* "Kopje," diminutive of Kop, a head, bluff, or mountain; therefore = "Monticulus," a little mountain.

breadth; occipital shelf strongly narrowing posteriorly; zygomata practically without projecting antero-external shoulders; palatal foramina large and widely open; palatal bridge quite narrow; bullæ of medium size. Incisors of a very simple pattern, the enamel not penetrating into the tooth at all, but merely following its anterior outline; inner segment of each tooth two thirds the breadth of the outer. Molars as in true *Lepus*, not as in *Oryctolagus crassicaudatus*.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 398 millim.; tail 76, with hair 100; hind foot 107; ear 107.

Skull: greatest length 80·5; basilar length 63; zygomatic breadth 37; nasals 33 (diagonally) \times 16; interorbital breadth 14; intertemporal breadth 13·5; length of palatal foramina 20; breadth of palatal bridge 5·2; antero-posterior diameter of bullæ 12·3.

Hab. Deelfontein, Cape Colony.

Type. Female. Original number 284. Collected 24th May, 1902, by Trooper C. H. B. Grant and presented by Col. A. T. Sloggett, R.A.M.C.

To the three types of hare found in South Africa, *L. capensis*, *L. saxatilis*, and *O. crassicaudatus*, all of them obtained at Deelfontein, the present adds a fourth very distinct one, without near allies anywhere.

Although with a general resemblance to *O. crassicaudatus*, with which it shares the characteristic form of the tail, it may be distinguished externally by its brownish-drab instead of rufous tail, the absence of rufous suffusion in its body-colour, the presence of a narrow line of black round the tips of the ears, and the striking coloration of the under surface. Finally, the skull shows that it has no real relationship to that animal, but is more nearly allied to *L. capensis*.

Col. Sloggett and Mr. Grant are to be congratulated on the discovery of this very remarkable hare, the most distinct that has been described for a long time.

XII.—On Two new *Squirrels* of the *Funisciurus pyrrhopus* Group. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Funisciurus mandingo, sp. n.

A small pale form allied to *F. leucostigma*, with the red of the flanks and limbs almost obsolete.

General colour above coarsely grizzled pale olivaceous, much paler than in the allied species. Light stripes present,